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Space Age Report

Reds Put Lid On Rocket Scientists

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Who built the Russian moon rockets? What Soviet scientists and engineers are today at work on Russia's project to orbit a man in space?

IF YOU CAN ANSWER these questions, then you are privy to a tightly-held secret. The men who build America's missiles and rockets do not know who are their Soviet counterparts, nor does anyone else in the United States have such knowledge unless it should be the White House and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The world has heard less than a half-dozen names of Russians supposedly connected with the Kremlin's space exploration and

military missile programs.

TWO ARE PUBLIC spokesmen for the Russian space and military rocket enterprises. Leonid I. Sedov, a physicist member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, is one of them. The other is Lt. Gen. A. A. Blagoviravov, an artilleryman and engineering research ad-

ministrator. He also is a member of the Academy of Science.

Until two years ago, Prof. Peter Kapitsa, world-known physicist who has his own low-temperature experimental laboratory in Moscow, occasionally was mentioned in Russian newspaper discussions of satellite projects. Lately his

name has not appeared.

THE ONLY OFFICIAL Russian explanation for such elaborate secrecy has come from Premier Nikita Khrushchev. In a speech in East Germany on July 9, 1958, Khrushchev explained it on the basis of security, saying:

"When the time comes, the

photographs and names of these glorious people will be published and they will become broadly known among the people. We value these people highly and assure their security from enemy agents who might be sent in to destroy these outstanding people, our valuable cadres."

"But now, in order to guarantee the security of the country and the lives of these scholars, engineers, technicians and other specialists, we cannot make their names public or print their pictures."

THE KREMLIN REGIME, heir to a murky heritage of political

assassination which still appears to control much of its thinking, has tried equally hard to keep its atomic affairs secret, allowing only certain exchange visits to view non-military atomic achievements. They seem to have had reasonable success.

U.S. intelligence agents have known for several years that the Soviet Ministry of Medium-Machine Building, formed in 1953, was a cover name for the Russian nuclear weapons organization.

But it was only lately that U.S.

atomic scientists, through a monthly magazine called the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, published in Chicago, learned for the first time the probable site of a key Soviet installation producing military nuclear materials.

AN ARTICLE IN THE magazine, written by Arnold Kramish, a physicist with the Rand Corp. at Santa Monica, pinpointed the plant in the southern Ural Mountains outside the town of Miass, 50 miles west of Chelyabinsk.